

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

March 23, 2015

5:30 p.m.

Courthouse

MINUTES:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Joe Gourley  
Commissioner David Nipper  
Commissioner Steve Pearcy  
Commissioner Jeff Phillips  
Commissioner Pettus Read  
Commissioner Chantho Sourinho  
Commissioner Doug Shafer, C

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ernest Burgess	Jeff Davidson
Michael Gregory	Trey King
Robert Arnold	Joe Russell
Steve Spence	Lynn Duke
Teena Bigbee	Randy White
Georgia Meshotto	Larry Farley
Joe Pennington	Mike Gentry
Tommy Thompson	Egon Grissom
Chris Haynes	Becky Shelton

Chairman Shafer presided and called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with all members being present at that time.

MINUTES:

"Commissioner Sourinho moved, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, to approve the minutes of the last meeting. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

Chairman Shafer advised the Committee previously discussed inspections of middle and high school buses and activity buses and he wanted to let the Committee know there is a shop at Riverdale that checks the buses and does the work.

PAWS REPORT:

Michael Gregory presented the PAWS report for the use and information of the Committee. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Gourley moved, seconded by Commissioner Nipper, to approve the PAWS report as presented. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

Mr. Gregory next presented a proposed budget amendment to move the balance remaining on the PetSmart grant to Drug & Medical Supplies expense account so the balance can be refunded after all expenses are accounted for.

From: 101-34530	Restricted for Public	
	Health & Welfare -	\$ 22,750
To: 101-55120-413	Drugs & Medical Supplies -	\$ 22,750

"Commissioner Read moved, seconded by Commissioner Pearcy, to approve the PAWS budget amendment as presented. This motion passed unanimously by roll call vote."

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY REPORT:

The written Emergency Management Agency report was provided for the use and information of the Committee. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Nipper moved, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, to approve the Emergency Management Agency report as presented. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

CORRECTIONAL WORK CENTER REPORT:

The written Correctional Work Center report was provided for the use and information of the Committee. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Phillips moved, seconded by Commissioner Read, to approve the Correctional Work Center report as presented. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

OSHA REPORT:

The written OSHA report was provided for the use and information of the Committee. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Percy moved, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, to approve the OSHA report as presented. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

YOUTH SERVICES CONTRACTS:

Teena Bigbee presented two proposed Governmental Grant Contracts advising they are both for three year periods and require no County match. The first was for Teen Trax in the amount of \$139,344 and the second was for Teen Learning Center in the amount of \$1,253,088. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Nipper moved, seconded by Commissioner Sourinho, to approve the Governmental Grant Contracts for Teen Trax and Teen Learning Center as presented and forward the same to the Budget Committee. This motion passed unanimously by roll call vote."

The Committee did not review the Youth Services budget as this normally goes directly to the Budget Committee.

DRUG COURT REPORT:

Trey King first presented the monthly Drug Court report for the use and information of the Committee. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Phillips moved, seconded by Commissioner Nipper, to approve the Drug Court report as presented. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

Mr. King next presented his proposed 15/16 budget advising the same is approximately \$10,000 over the current budget due mainly to step increases and training. The Committee was advised it appears the budget is covered by grants except for approximately \$80,000. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Phillips moved, seconded by Commissioner Sourinho, to forward the 15/16 Drug Court budget as presented to the Budget Committee with a positive recommendation. This motion passed unanimously by roll call vote."

Mr. King next reviewed with the Committee the Cost Benefit Analysis to show the benefit of the program.

JUVENILE DETENTION REPORT:

Lynn Duke presented the Juvenile Detention report for the use and information of the Committee. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Percy moved, seconded by Commissioner Gourley, to approve the Juvenile Detention report as presented. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

Ms. Duke next presented a proposed budget amendment to provide funding for food for the remainder of the fiscal year.

From: 101-54240-205 Employee Insurance -	\$ 12,000
To: 101-54240-399 Other Contracted Services -	\$ 12,000

"Commissioner Sourinho moved, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, to approve the Juvenile Detention budget amendment as

presented. This motion passed unanimously by roll call vote."

Ms. Duke next presented her proposed 15/16 budget advising the same is a 4% increase over the current budget or \$80,000 and is mostly in personnel. There is a \$3,000 increase in part-time personnel and increases in food, security cameras and supplies & materials such as mattresses and uniforms, etc. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Gourley moved, seconded by Commissioner Nipper, to forward the Juvenile Detention 15/16 budget as presented to the Budget Committee with a positive recommendation. This motion passed unanimously by roll call vote."

#### AMBULANCE SERVICE REPORT:

Randy White presented the Ambulance Service report for the use and information of the Committee. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Phillips moved, seconded by Commissioner Percy, to approve the Ambulance Service report as presented. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

Mr. White next presented a proposed budget amendment to recognize checks received from St. Thomas Rutherford Hospital and Stonecrest Medical Center to fund the Paramedic Scholarship Program.

To:	118-44570	RCEMS - SCH -	\$ 4,000
To:	118-55130-524	In-Service/Staff Devel -	\$ 4,000

"Commissioner Phillips moved, seconded by Commissioner Read, to approve the Ambulance Service budget amendment as presented. This motion passed unanimously by roll call vote."

Georgia Meshotto next reviewed the 15/16 proposed budget advising it is approximately 9% more than the current budget due mainly to the Burton Street ambulance building. Without the Burton Street ambulance building expense, it is approximately 2% more.

The budget does include a request for a Special Events Truck at \$31,500 for a Ford F-150. Commissioner Gourley advised he preferred to get the power stretchers than the Special Events Truck. The Committee was advised the department would need 14 power stretchers to do the whole fleet and there are 3 requested in the current budget. The department is hoping to get a grant to purchase the stretchers. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Phillips moved, seconded by Commissioner Gourley, to forward the 15/16 Ambulance Service budget as presented to the Budget Committee with a positive recommendation. This motion passed unanimously by roll call vote."

#### COUNTY FIRE/RESCUE REPORT:

Larry Farley presented the County Fire/Rescue report for the use and information of the Committee. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Phillips moved, seconded by Commissioner Nipper, to approve the Fire/Rescue report as presented. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

Mayor Burgess and Mr. Farley next presented the proposed 15/16 Fire/Rescue proposed budget. Mike Gentry, an independent insurance agent in the County, addressed the Committee advising of the importance of ISO ratings and the need to get the pockets of 9s and 10s in the County reduced as some companies will not provide coverage for ISO ratings this high. Also, firefighter and water availability are big components in figuring the cost of insurance.

Mayor Burgess advised he was recommending a Fire Tax to support the Fire/Rescue Department and provided stats on housing in the County advising the average value is \$214,000. The need for fire service will escalate with the projected increase in population. The Committee was provided ISO classifications for the various fire districts in the County. There are on average 110 to 120 structure fires in the unincorporated areas annually. The Committee was also provided the average insurance costs for the different ISO ratings. Half of the main fire engines are 25 years old and the others are 15 years old. Mayor Burgess advised the budget as presented proposes to replace all engines in the next 12 years at about 3 per year. The volunteer fire department vehicles will be replaced as well.

The Committee was provided three budget alternatives that were projected for five years out. Budget #1 was a continuation budget with a request for one additional full-time County funded position. The County has applied for twelve more firefighter grant positions and if received Mayor Burgess advised he would recommend Budget #3 which provides for another 24/7 station on the north side of the County. If the 12 positions are not received then Mayor Burgess would recommend Budget #2 which adds 4 positions Monday through Friday during the day.

Mayor Burgess reviewed revenue sources for the Fire/Rescue Department advising money cannot be taken from tax dollars from municipalities and put toward firefighting in the unincorporated areas. SITUS revenue funds can be used which are the hotel/motel tax, sales tax, Hall income tax, beer tax and mixed drink tax. However, the Legislature is considering doing away with the Hall income tax.

Mayor Burgess advised the continuation budget cannot be done and implement the apparatus plan without funding of \$541,510. All budgets as presented continue with the current 12 firefighters. Budget #4 would be one full-time position with the rest of the department staffed by volunteers. For revenue, the only option by statute is a tax on the area to be covered by the Fire/Rescue Department and the monies can only be used for fire purposes. The Committee was advised ultimately 10¢ per year would be needed to fund the budget including purchase of new apparatus. On a \$200,000 house a tax of 10¢ would be \$50 per year but this should be recouped in insurance savings. Since reducing the ISO ratings in the County many homeowners have saved up to \$500 per year. Budget #3 with 24 firefighters would ultimately need 13¢ to 15¢ to fund and on a \$200,000 house this would be \$75 or \$6.25 per month. Mayor Burgess advised this is more than just a budget and is important from a public safety standpoint.

Commissioner Gourley advised he has been involved with fire safety since the mid 1970s and he has in the past had trouble getting coverage and it was at a high cost. He is now in the city so the rating is better. He has seen houses burn and he does not want to go back to those days. The County is looking at a lot of new homes being built and he wanted the public to know a Fire Tax versus increased insurance costs are not comparable.

Commissioner Phillips advised this was somewhat controversial when the County previously applied for the firefighter grant but he felt the Commission made a commitment to move forward and thought a commitment was made to the budget when the grant was applied for. Additionally, the County has to plan for the growth as projected. This tax is small compared to what the insurance cost would be. Additionally, it will be more difficult for cities to annex now due to legislation so it makes sense to spend money to save money, lives and property. Rutherford County is the fifth largest county in the State so there is no end in sight.

Commissioner Read advised while volunteer firefighters are appreciated it is hard to get volunteers and there is limited availability of volunteers during the day time.

Commissioner Nipper advised there seemed to be a rollercoaster approach to the amount of the tax and he would recommend doing 20¢ and not count on the grant. This would be \$100 on a \$200,000 house per year. Mayor Burgess advised he thought 15¢ would be sufficient.

Chairman Shafer asked what would happen in 2018 in the re-evaluation. Mayor Burgess advised it would be a Commission decision but there would be a certified rate on this too.

Commissioner Gourley said the equipment replacement could potentially be accelerated.

Commissioner Percy asked if there was any liability if the County failed to reach a property during a fire and Mayor Burgess advised the liability doesn't change.

"Commissioner Phillips moved, seconded by Commissioner Gourley, to forward the 15/16 Fire/Rescue budget to the Budget Committee with a positive recommendation of Budget #3 and if the grant is not received then recommend Budget #2 with funding of the Fire Tax at the 15¢ level. This motion passed unanimously by roll call vote."

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT REPORT:

The Committee was provided the line item reports for its use and information. Sheriff Arnold advised the jury trial line may run short if there is another jury trial by year end. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Sourinho moved, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, to approve the Sheriff's Department report as presented. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

Joe Russell presented proposed budget amendments for consideration.

1) To:	101-49700	Ins. Recovery -	\$ 4,176
To:	54110-718	New Vehicles -	\$ 4,176
2) From:	101-54110-425	Gasoline -	\$160,000
To:	54110-187	Overtime -	\$ 83,580
To:	54110-201	Social Security -	\$ 5,190
To:	54110-204	Retirement -	\$ 10,010
To:	54110-212	Emp. Medicare -	\$ 1,220
To:	54110-790	Other Equip. -	\$ 60,000
3) From:	54210-334	Maint. Agree. -	\$ 5,000
From:	54210-336	M/R Equip. -	\$ 3,000
To:	54210-354	Prisoner Trans. -	\$ 8,000
4) From:	54110-709	DP Equip. -	\$ 5,000
To:	54110-411	DP Supplies -	\$ 5,000
5) To:	101-44130	Sale of Material -	\$ 706
To:	54110-499	Other Supplies -	\$ 706

Chairman Shafer advised last month the department had a transfer from Unassigned and this month has \$160,000 available from the gasoline account. Sheriff Arnold advised he did not want to use monies from Drug Funds because he was saving those for a particular project.

"Commissioner Gourley moved, seconded by Commissioner Sourinho, to approve the Sheriff's Office budget amendments 1 through 5 as presented. This motion passed by roll call vote with Chairman Shafer voting "no"."

Mr. Russell next presented additional proposed budget amendments. #6 is to recognize additional funds received from the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force and #7 recognizes monies billed to the Board of Education for the security provided at school

events.

6) To:	101-47700	Asset Forfeiture -	\$ 15,198
To:	101-54110-187	Overtime -	\$ 12,705
To:	101-54110-201	Social Security -	\$ 788
To:	101-54110-204	State Retirement -	\$ 1,521
To:	101-54110-212	Employer Medicare -	\$ 184
7) To:	101-43541	Contract ADM SRVS/LEAs	\$ 17,950
To:	101-54110-187	(BOE) Overtime -	\$ 15,000
To:	101-54110-201	Social Security -	\$ 930
To:	101-54110-204	State Retirement -	\$ 1,800
To:	101-54110-212	Employer Medicare -	\$ 220

"Commissioner Nipper moved, seconded by Commissioner Gourley, to approve the Sheriff's Department budget amendments #6 and #7 as presented. This motion passed unanimously by roll call vote."

Mr. Russell next presented a proposed budget amendment to provide funds for the virtual consolidation project of the Sheriff's Office, City of Murfreesboro and Rutherford County EMS Dispatch. E911 Board agreed to reimburse Rutherford County \$457,650 on the project. The budget amendment for \$112,500 was to pay for hardware.

8) From:	101-39000	Unassigned Fund Balance -	\$112,500
To:	101-99100-590	Transfers to Other Funds -	\$112,500

"Commissioner Read moved, seconded by Commissioner Nipper, to approve the Sheriff's Department budget amendment #8 as presented. This motion passed unanimously by roll call vote."

Chris Haynes and Egon Grissom next addressed the Committee regarding manpower issues in the Patrol Division and how short staffed it is and safety issues to be considered in the upcoming budget. Seven officers have been lost to other agencies in the last four months. The Patrol Division is having to prioritize calls especially on Friday and Saturday nights. Mr. Grissom advised they need people to maintain professionalism.

Sheriff Arnold suggested a joint meeting with the Budget Committee for presentation of his budget.

There appearing to be no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman Shafer declared the meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

---

DOUG SHAFER, Chairman